

## **STATUS OF ELECTRIC SERVICE TERRITORY MAPPING GROUP**

In response to the IURC's concerns over its current mylar mapping technology, qualified representatives of several utilities have met and investigated, and discussed alternatives to mylar mapping. Participating utilities include: VECTREN, CINERGY, NIPSCO, IPL, AEP, Crawfordsville Electric Light and Power, Mishawaka Electric Utility, Hendricks County Power, Wabash County REMC, and Indiana Statewide Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives. The mapping group is comprised of 26 individuals.

A primary concern of the mapping group is to ensure that if the IURC moves forward with the replacement of mylar maps with digital maps, that each electric utility will be treated fairly and that disagreements over territorial boundary lines will be avoided.

The mapping group first met and exchanged information regarding each other's mapping software, coordination system, and mapping accuracy parameters. We discussed the IURC's current mylar mapping system, its status and deficiencies. The group's first exercise was to take each available participant's digital map and combine them to determine the task and the accuracy of the result. Several utilities took their digital map information, translated it into a compatible software, and forwarded the result to PSI. Mark Butterfield of PSI volunteered to combine the digital mapping information received from several utilities. The combination of various digital maps did not achieve an acceptably accurate result. The challenges of this mapping translation and combination process include:

1. Different utilities have different acceptable land base accuracy parameters, i.e. plus or minus two feet versus plus or minus 50 feet.
2. There are at least three different coordinate systems—East State Plain System, West State Plain System, and Universal Transfer Mercator.
3. Not all utilities have digital maps. Those that are digital use various software including—Microstation, Small World, ESRI Arc Map, and Autocad.

The mapping group is now looking at the alternative of assessing data conversion of the mylar maps. Close consideration is being given to using the Indiana Department of Transportation GIS land base map as a base map due to its completeness and availability. Members of the mapping committee have met with three major Indiana engineering firms familiar with digital mapping and digital mapping conversion. The committee is brain storming with those firms and hopes to receive more ideas, time requirements, and rough estimates of what conversion of mylar maps would cost. This exercise is to examine the feasibility of providing existing mylar maps to an independent contractor to make the data conversion and generate digital maps. In theory the utilities would then review the result and provide corrections and updates. The finalized digital statewide map would be available by internet. As adjustments or modifications are made to the territorial maps pursuant to agreements and IURC orders, the affected utilities would provide agreed upon digitized updates to the IURC technical staff for review. Upon satisfactory review, the updated computerized information would be fed into the IURC's digital map as well as the digital map of the two affected utilities.

The mapping committee is moving forward with their efforts and hopes to have made sufficient progress to warrant a meeting with IURC staff in January.